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Offenders Give Back Thousands to Crime Victims' Groups Through CALPIA's Joint and Free Venture Programs

SACRAMENTO – Offenders from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) are giving back to various crime victims' support groups throughout the state for a total of more than \$65,000. The offenders are participating in the Joint Venture or Free Venture Programs at four California institutions.

The Joint and Free Venture Programs are models of public-private partnerships, benefiting businesses, crime victims and the State while preparing offenders for successful integration into the community.

"When offenders give back and help others it creates a positive ripple effect throughout the institution and into the community," said Charles L. Pattillo, General Manager of CALPIA. "These programs teach real-world skills including the essential tools for getting a job after release, but more importantly how to come together and help those in need or at risk."

The Joint Venture Program is provided at adult institutions and the Free Venture Program provides work experience at juvenile facilities. Offenders are paid wages comparable to what they would earn if they were working in the respective field outside of prison. Federal, state, and local taxes are withheld from an offender's gross earnings, and 20 percent is deducted from the remainder of the offender's wages for each of the following categories: room and board, inmate trust/canteen account, family support, mandatory savings and victims' compensation.

Offenders initially pay for all court-ordered compensation and the remaining collected restitution is placed in a "Generic Restitution Fund" for local crime victim organizations. Here are institutions where offenders are making donations:

- **Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla** - Offenders in the Joint Venture Program, Allwire, Inc. are donating a total of \$45,695.04 to Mollie's House, a non-profit organization that helps victims of sexual trafficking, and Marjaree Mason Center, a domestic violence shelter in Fresno County.
- **San Quentin State Prison** – Offenders working for Big Dawg and The Last Mile Works are donating a total of \$6,183.56 to Center for Domestic Peace, a non-profit that provides programs and services to help victims of domestic violence.
- **N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton** - Through Merit Partners, wards are donating \$11,830.96 to the Women's Center- Youth & Family Services, a provider in Stockton that helps the homeless, runaways, and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- **California Correctional Center**- Offenders in the Joint Venture Program are donating \$2,397.03 to Lassen County's Victim-Witness Assistance Program.